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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	China	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1A
SUBJECT	Revision of Terms and Effective Date of the New Chinese Communist Military Rank System	DATE DISTR.	29 October 1953
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BY CABLE

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:

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1. In early September 1953 the Chinese Communist Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) planned to put its new military rank system into effect in January 1954.
2. The RMC decided to abolish the Chun-Chiang (0402/1412)² and the Chun Hsiao (0402/2699)² ranks which were included in the original draft of the proposed system, and add Shih Kuan (1102/1351) Grades One and Three (sic). Platoon level cadres are to be classified as Shih Kuan Grade One.
3. This military rank system and preliminary name lists for positions have already been submitted to the Chinese Communist authorities for consideration and decision. The Central Cadres Administration Department is preparing a candidate list for the post of Army Marshal. The name of the candidate for this post is to be announced in January 1954.

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1. Comment. reported the command designations drafted by the Cadres Administration Board of the RMC in January 1953.

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Comment. Early this year reports indicated that the Chinese Communists would soon adopt a conventional system of rank and insignia. Most reports set July 1953 as the date the new rank system was to go into effect and several Chinese prisoners in Korea stated that officers in their units had been issued insignia of rank in February. Despite the apparent logic of the new system as a means of standardizing Chinese Communist army ranks, the plan apparently aborted or was postponed.

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2. Comment. The Chun Chiang and Chun Hsiao designations reported in were new terms, not in use under the Nationalists, and were presumably added to make the Chinese Communist table of ranks correspond with its Soviet counterpart. Elimination of these designations appears to make the

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new terms in the upper ranks more in line with the traditional terminology in use under the Nationalists. Shih kuan, also a new term, appears difficult to translate; the "shih" ranks under the Nationalists designated noncommissioned officers, yet, in this context, they appear to be commissioned grades. This report is less satisfactory and convincing than its predecessor, both because the former unity in terminology in company, field, and general ranks is apparently broken, and because this report fails to equate the positional ranks presently in use by the Chinese Communists with the new rank designations.

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